

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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HINCHEY RELEASES EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today released a report summarizing the results of a survey he conducted about emergency preparedness in the 26th Congressional District. Hinchey had sent the survey to municipal governments, and emergency response agencies and organizations throughout the district.

"My hypothesis going into this survey was that there was need at the local level for federal assistance in preparing for and responding to serious emergencies," said Hinchey. "The results of the survey bear that out. I believe congressional districts throughout the country would find similar results."

After the September 11 attacks, Hinchey held meetings in the Hudson Valley and the Southern Tier to discuss the preparation and response priorities of local municipalities. He is an original cosponsor of H.R. 3161, the Municipal Preparation and Strategic Response Act, which would provide \$1.5 billion in grants to local governments for emergency preparedness.

In March, Hinchey circulated the nine-question survey to learn more about the emergency preparedness needs of local communities. The respondents overwhelmingly believe that the federal government has a critical role to play in helping first responders prepare and plan for natural and terrorist disasters. Several specific needs were cited in the areas of training, equipment, personnel and planning.

"The municipalities in our district are to be commended for the careful planning they have done so far," Hinchey added. "But there are new demands being placed on first responders and these demands must be matched with a commitment of resources from the federal government. The information provided by this survey gives me another tool in trying to secure those resources."

A copy of the report is available on Hinchey's website: www.house.gov/hinchey. Members of the press can also obtain a copy by sending an e-mail request to: kevin.o'connell@mail.house.gov.